

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Shepherd's Staff

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CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, October 15th at 9:15 am to provide an update on Growing to Serve, Grounded in Faith capital campaign and building project and also to vote on obtaining biddable plans.

GOOD SHEPHERD'S 8th ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF

SAVE THE DATE: NOVEMBER 15th, 2017

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will once again be hosting our 8th Annual Chili/Chicken Noodle Soup Cook Off & Silent Auction fundraising event. This event will be held in the Good Shepherd Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, November 15th, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.** This is a community event, so anyone from the community is encouraged to make their special homemade chili or chicken noodle soup and join us for this fun event. Please invite family and friends to join us.

Watch for future emails. We will be using our Excel spreadsheet to sign up for bringing Chili and/or Chicken Noodle Soup, as well as crackers, cheese, sour cream, milk and desserts. Every year the proceeds from the cook off go to the Plainview-Elgin Area Food Shelf. Please contact Dawn Breuer if you have any questions. Dawn can be reached at dawnbreuer2@gmail.com or by calling **507-396-3080**.

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED

We are currently accepting silent auction items. Donations can be products, services, gift certificates or gift basket items. Your donated items can be brought to the church any time you have them. The proceeds from the Silent Auction go to Good Shepherd's building fund. Please contact Kory Bigalk if you have any questions. Kory can be reached at kgbigalk@gmail.com or by calling **507-251-0983**.

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PASTOR'S NOTE

This year marks the 500th anniversary since Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the castle church door in Wittenburg, starting what we now refer to as the Reformation. While this event happened 500 years ago, Martin Luther's works and the Reformation are still relevant for our lives today.

Luther grew up in a culture that is significantly different from ours today. Just to put things in perspective, Luther was eight years old when Christopher Columbus set sail for America. Luther lived in a time when everyone was part of one church – the Roman Catholic Church and the church played a significant role in politics and political leadership (there was no separation of church and state). The 1500's were also a time when the Plague killed 1/3 of all people, most lived in poverty, and life expectancy was 30-40 years of age. With all of these factors, the church was very powerful, and people looked to the church to reassure them of salvation and life after death.

In this culture and society, Luther was tormented by trying to do enough to please God. Luther, like others, viewed God as a righteous God who punishes sinners. Knowing that he was a sinner, Luther didn't see how he could ever gain God's favor.

Through his study of scripture, Luther finally came to realize that God is merciful and that we are made right with God by God's grace. This discovery is still significant for us today. There are still people who feel tormented that they are being punished by God and they can't do enough to make up for past mistakes. Luther's teaching of grace reveals that there is no limit to God's grace and mercy.

When the church of Luther's day started selling indulgences claiming that for a fee relatives could get a deceased loved one out of Purgatory, Luther saw this as contrary to his discovery of God's grace. Luther's 95 theses that were nailed to Castle Church door in Wittenburg were intended to start a conversation with the church. Luther never intended to leave the Catholic Church, but when Luther refused to take back his writings in opposition of the practices of the church, he was essentially kicked out.

Luther's life involved many dramatic moments including being caught in a thunderstorm, nailing his 95 theses to the Castle Church door, burning orders from the pope, standing before the emperor and leaders of the church, being kidnapped, living life in disguise, marrying a nun, and more. Yet, of all of these different events, it is Luther's biblical teachings on grace that have stood the test of time. Another one of Luther's greatest contributions was his translation of the Bible into German, the language of the people, and his understanding that all people should be able to turn to the Word of God.

This month we celebrate the Reformation and Luther's contributions to the church. Join us on **Sunday, October 15th at 4:00 pm and/or on Sunday, October 29th for worship at 8:00 am or 10:30 am.**

In Christ,

Pastor Krista

INTERN PASTOR'S NOTE

Do you have kids? Do you love them? If so, you are qualified to come and explore what ways we can empower their faith life. It is called Sticky Faith and it was developed by Dr. Kara Powell and Dr. Chap Clark out of the Fuller Youth Institute. It means just that; how can we make faith stick. *"Sticky faith is a ministry framework and parenting philosophy baked by practical and proven ideas to help develop long-term faith in teenagers."* The goal is to understand what it is parents can do now, while your kids are living with you, to prepare them to be an adult with an active faith life. It is never too early or too late to discover what is possible.

It will be four sessions long. There is a DVD to watch along with some discussion questions afterwards, with no right or wrong answer. The focus will be on four foundations proven to engage a lasting faith life; intergenerational relationships, whole gospel, partnership with families and a safe place to doubt.

I have done this curriculum before and it is amazing. It isn't rocket science, it is simple things you can do, and start that day. The stories from the DVD lessons I still recall as I am rearing my own children. The premise is love. Your children will have an active faith life if you love, model and encourage theirs to grow. I would love for you to join me as we discover, and journey together through family life.

We will meet for four Sundays in October: 8th, 15th, (no class MEA weekend), 29th, and Nov. 5th. We will meet in the entrance by the couches.

God's blessings.

Vicar Nicole

CONGREGATION NEWS

PROPERTY UPDATE

Driveway, Parking Lot Spaces, Culvert and Lighting

Good Shepherd has a new culvert and wider driveway into the parking lot. The old culvert was too small and not handling the rain and water run off. As a result, every time there was a major rain or a day when a lot of snow melted, the water run off was washing out the driveway and the gravel from the driveway and parking lot was ending up in the ditch. Numerous times a volunteer would scoop out the gravel from the ditch and try to improve the driveway. A request was made to the township to improve the culvert situation, but we learned that the township would not do this work. After consulting with the county engineer on the particulars of what would be the best fix, the council made the decision to proceed with a larger and longer culvert. The work with the culvert and driveway provides us with a wider driveway and will help maintain a better driveway and parking lot. In addition, the light pole on the North side of the driveway was taken down and a new light pole with security light was put up on the South side of the driveway/parking lot. Taking out the old light pole allowed for putting in the larger and longer culvert, widening the driveway, and adding 2 additional parking spaces. Also, the new security light provides better lighting to more of the driveway and parking lot. Currently, we still have a pile of gravel in the driveway so that as the culvert and driveway settle, there is still gravel available for fill in.

Thank you to Joe Suntken and Steve Fenske for donating their time, labor and machinery to get this work done!

If you have questions about any of these improvements, please talk with a council member.

COME CELEBRATE THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF LUTHER AND THE REFORMATION

Sunday, October 15th, 4:00 - 5:30 pm – All are invited

- What was it like to live in Luther's day during the Middle Ages with the Plague and church and government almost united as one?
- Was Luther angry with God? (Yes, he was. Come find out why)
- Did Luther really want to leave the Catholic church?
- Does Luther and the Reformation make a difference for us today?

Join us as we watch parts of the Luther movie, eat worms to remember Luther at the Diet of Worms (hint: diet means meeting and we will have gummy worms), discover the changes Luther brought about, and drink some beer (it will be root-beer, but Luther did drink beer).

Sunday, October 29th, 8 AM and 10:30 AM Reformation Sunday Worship

Festival Worship with Holy Communion celebrating the Reformation and singing "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" (one of Luther's hymns).

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH

GOOD SHEPHERD BOOK GROUP

Please note change of date to October 25th (due to MEA)!!

You are invited to Good Shepherd book group. **We will meet on October 25th from 6:30 – 8:00 pm** to discuss *Hotel at the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Janie Ford. Copies are available in the church office. Check out the book now and return it on the night of the meeting.

The November 15th book is *The Lilac Girls* by Martha Kelly. You may pick up library books at the October meeting or in the office afterwards.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY – (GRADES 9-12)

High school students will have 3 opportunities a month to meet and/or serve.

- The first Wednesday of the month from 7:30 - 8:30 pm we will explore life topics. Topics include things like community, home, justice, love, purpose. These studies will help prepare those going to the youth gathering and prepare all youth to think deeply about life and faith in today's complex world.
- Each month we will have a service opportunity as well. Join Vicar Nicole and the team to deliver meals to the community.
- Coffee shop will be hosted by high school youth on the third Sunday of the month. Money raised will support the youth trip and other youth ministry.

Dates:

Sunday	October 1st	11:30 am - 12:30 pm	Pack and deliver meals in Plainview
Wednesday	October 4th	7:30 - 8:30 pm	Explore—Community
Sunday	October 15th	9:00 - 10:30 am	Coffee Shop
Sunday	October 29th	11:30 am - 12:30 pm	Pack and deliver meals
Wednesday	November 1st	7:30 - 8:30 pm	Explore—Change
Sunday	November 19th	11:30 am - 12:30 pm	Pack and deliver meals

MILESTONES MINISTRY

Loss of Loved Ones:

Our sympathies go out to Jake Thompson and his family for the loss of Jake's father, Roger Thompson, who passed away on Monday, September 11th.

Baptism

Blessings to Leah Mae Holst, who was baptized on September 10th. Leah is the daughter of Wade and Samantha Holst.

EDUCATION

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT EDUCATION:

Sundays, October 1, 8, 15, and 29: 9:30 - 10:15 am

Topic: And Who is My Neighbor?

During October we will continue the study, "And Who is My Neighbor?" This is the question a lawyer asks Jesus and then Jesus proceeds to tell the story of the Good Samaritan. The study we are using was written by seminary professor, Dr. Eric Barreto who has been our Bible study leader the last two years at synod assembly. Since the Samaritan is someone of a different race, this study digs into the timely issues of race and racial equity while also exploring scripture. We will use Dr. Barreto's study as a spring board for conversations and questions about who our neighbor is and what it means to be a neighbor to others.

Sunday, October 22nd, 9:15 - 10:15 am

Topic: God's Work, Our Hands - service project day

People of all ages are invited to come together to work on service projects in the Fellowship Hall. Pack kits for Lutheran World Relief, participate in the Food for All project, tie fleece blankets, and/or do an act of kindness for someone else.

7TH & 8TH GRADE CONFIRMATION MINISTRY

No confirmation Wednesday, October 18th (due to MEA).

PASSING ON FAITH

Whew! Lots of Passing on Faith Ministry is happening at Good Shepherd!

- Sunday school is up and running with 14 awesome teachers and helpers.
- Three year olds and third graders received Bibles and are learning how to use them.
- Parents and 7th/8th graders have kicked off Confirmation and 4 awesome adult mentors are joining us every week.

MILESTONE LEARNING FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Sunday, October 8th -- Playing with Fire for 5th-6th Graders

These students are old enough to be worship leaders and we' will explore ways for them to get involved at 9:15 am. Parents come too. We are never too old to learn about worship!

PASSING ON FAITH CONTINUED ...

GOD'S WORK: OUR HANDS SERVICE OPPORTUNITY OCTOBER 22ND

The whole congregation (Sunday school kids, youth, and adults) will join together during the education hour on Sunday, October 22nd to do service projects.

1. Pack personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. These kits will go around the world to where people are suffering from natural disaster or violence. See article below for the list of what we need. A collection box is located in the narthex.
2. Operation Christmas child—learn more about this ministry
3. Kindness rocks-One message at just the right moment can change someone's life. We will decorate rocks with art and messages to be found or given to someone who needs a spark of hope.
4. Food For All Project—decorate grocery bags to distribute food.
5. Tying fleece blankets for children with limited hearing.

Want to help coordinate a station? Talk to Carole Joyce or send an email to carole35@charter.net.

HOPE THROUGH SOAP!

Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits

Personal Care Kits are shared with people who have lost everything from a natural disaster or life-threatening violence. Give hope through a bar of soap. Put any items from the list below in the box in the narthex.

**WE WILL SORT AND PACK THESE ON OCTOBER 22ND DURING THE EDUCATION HOUR.
Your hands and help are needed!**

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH PERSONAL CARE KIT

- ONE** light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- TWO** or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
- ONE** adult-size toothbrush in it's original packaging*
- ONE** sturdy comb, remove packaging
- ONE** metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

** Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap*

Most needed items are: Light weight bath towels, soap, and toothbrushes

WORSHIP & MUSIC

HELP WANTED - WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Many of our worship assistant groups are getting pretty small. It takes a large number of people to do a Sunday morning worship service (approximately 20 worship assistants per service on a communion Sunday). These jobs aren't hard and training will be provided, so please consider signing up for an area that you have an interest in. Our schedulers for each group will work with you to accommodate the time and date of the services you would be willing to help out with. Just let them know which dates will or will not work for you and which service you prefer to help out with and they will schedule you accordingly.

Communion Assistants: Co-leaders are Tina Wangen (early service) & Joanne Melbostad (late service)

Responsible for preparing and serving communion, as well as bringing communion bread and taking care of clean-up. **Numbers are especially light for the 10:30 service and several more would be nice for the 8:00 service.** Families with youth who have taken communion training are encouraged to serve together. If you are interested, someone will meet with you prior to serving for the first time to answer any questions.

Ushers: Co-leaders are Arlo & Penny Simonson (early service) and Jeff Henry (late service)

Responsible for assisting the congregation in preparing for worship on Sunday morning: handing out bulletins, collecting offering, answering questions, directing as needed, and cleaning-up after the service. **We are in need of more ushers and especially lead ushers for the 10:30 service.** Families and individuals are encouraged and welcome to serve. Adults will act as lead ushers.

**Fellowship Treats: On-Line Signup Sheet
(Thanks, Kelsey Rahman, for all years you took care of the scheduling!)**

If you love to bake, please consider sharing some of your goodies with the congregation! Treats can be homemade or purchased. Just go to this link and sign-up:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1CVwvhBaJO3CJdPnlJK4bDIP_OXeInqJH2FaFz_v0k8/edit#gid=0

Greeters: Co-leaders are Jackie Arens (early service) and Karen Anderson (late service)

Share the gift of hospitality and help others feel welcomed as they come to worship each week. Greeters are also vital in directing visitors and newer members. We have a great group of greeters, but would always welcome more.

WORSHIP & MUSIC CONTINUED ...

Offering Counter: Co-leaders are Lynn Eversman (early service) and Sarah Hassig (late service)

If you like numbers and working behind the scenes, consider joining the team of people who count each week's offering. Anyone 18 years and older is welcome to help in this area.

Additional people would be great for both services. Training is provided.

Acolytes: On-Line Signup Sheet

Youth in grades 5-8 are responsible for lighting the candles on the alter area, the Christ candle, and assisting with communion. **We are in need of more acolytes.** Training will be provided. To sign up, just go to this link:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ZdYq2phqzV7Jc3v3P3XXQmCCO2xY9hqaTMyhI53EMyE/edit?userstoinvite=erinbluhm@gmail.com&ts=59b2dac5#gid=0>

Coffee Fellowship: Donna Tesch

Prepare and clean up coffee for fellowship hour. More volunteers would be welcome.

Lectors: Cindy Fuerstneau

If you enjoy leading the congregation by sharing the Bible readings, please consider being a part of this team. Youth and adults who are comfortable reading in front of a group are welcome.

Video: Bob Endres

Help to video our worship services. We are in need of more volunteers, as many who volunteered for us were high school youth who have graduated and gone off to college.

(After 20 years of heading up the video team and doing the scheduling, Bob Endres will “be retiring”. THANK YOU, Bob, for all your years of service! So, if you, or anyone you know, would be willing to take over responsibility for the video team, please contact Bob directly or let the church office know.

All of these positions are important and it would be great if everyone would get involved in at least one way. Please consider giving of your gifts to enhance the worship experience for all. To get more information or to sign up, see the "Count Me In" form or contact the church office.

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

Thrivent Matching Dollars for Hurricane Victims: If Thrivent members would like to give and receive matching funds to help out hurricane victims, they can go to **thrivent.com** and give individually online. Once online, they would choose the organization they would like the funds to go to. Thrivent will match their donation through the end of the year (December 31st) or until \$3 million dollars is raised, whichever comes first. If you have any questions, please contact Jake Thompson or the Plainview Thrivent office at 534-3411.

Lutheran Disaster Response: If you are interested in donating money to help out the hurricane victims in the south, Lutheran Disaster Response is an excellent place to do this. Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response designated for "Hurricane Response – United States" will be used entirely (100 percent) for this disaster until the response is complete.

Checks can be made out directly to Lutheran Disaster Response and mailed to Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gift Processing Center; PO Box 1809; Merrifield, VA 22116-8009, or you can make out your check to Good Shepherd Church with Hurricane Relief written in the memo line and we will send the money on to the ELCA Processing center.

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

One of Good Shepherd's traditions is giving our 3 year olds and 3rd graders Bibles as they start Sunday school in the fall. This year parents of 14 children placed the Bible in their child's hands. Please pray for these children and parents as they read the Bible together.

Sunday school offering this fall will go to Josh Hall from the PEM schools toward a van for him to get around. Learn more about Josh here:

<https://www.gofundme.com/new-conversion-vehicle-for-josh>

Sunday school offering always goes out to serve in our community or wider world. This is a wonderful way to teach our young people to care for others as Jesus did.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

10/01	Thor Erickson		10/15	Jeff Henry
10/04	Michael Tuxen			Andrea Castle
	Troy Munsch			Jim Mason
	Angie LaBare		10/16	Brook Schwantz
	Brady Beckel		10/18	Ainsley Schwantz
10/05	Arlo Simonson			Landon Klennert
	Shelley Henry		10/19	Todd Rau
10/07	Susan Shanks		10/20	Nolan Folkert
	Sarah Niemeyer		10/21	Tyler Niemeyer
10/08	Jasmyne Johnson		10/22	Andy Yust
	Brynn Koepsell		10/23	Terry Yust
10/09	Taylor Thompson			Bob Tangen
	Levi Schreiber			Tammy Wehrs
10/10	Jacob LaBare		10/27	Anthony Ellinghuysen
10/12	Eric Grover		10/29	Mike Sveen
	Evelyn Appel			Cathe Hanson
10/13	Bryce Hanson		10/30	Schuyler Thompson
10/14	Alex Rahman		10/31	Jeremy Amos
	Gavin Ihrke			Nick Shanks
10/15	John Folkert			Torin Erickson

Anniversaries

10/02	Tim & Kelsey Rahman		10/13	Mark & Karen Jurgenson
10/03	Todd & Colene Rau		10/14	Bernie & Michelle Klennert
	Steve & Tami Sawyer		10/16	Kent & Barb Kingsley
10/04	Adam & Kim Lyons		10/17	Bob & Susan Shanks
10/05	Todd & Brook Schwantz			Mike & Jill Kobler
10/06	Kenny & Stacy Hutchison		10/19	Ben & Jen Peter
	Craig & Sara Steele		10/27	Kirk & Lily Bartz
10/07	Jennifer & Nick Matti			Tom & Jackie Welti

*NOTE: Birthdays and anniversaries listed in the newsletters are now being limited to adult members and their college aged and under children. If you have questions and/or concerns with this, please contact the church office.

**PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU HAVE ADDITIONS
OR CORRECTIONS TO THE LIST OF BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES.**

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**Life has no remote.
Get up and change it yourself.**

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The Shepherd's Staff is a communication tool among our friends and members spreading the word of Jesus Christ with news of our church and related events. It is published monthly by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Plainview-Elgin.

VISION STATEMENT, GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Claimed by God through Word & Sacrament, we move forward with a NEW VIEW:

Notice the needs of our congregation, community, and world with eyes of faith.
Educate all from cradle to grave.
Worship in thankfulness and joy.

Value all generations in passing on the faith.
Identify and affirm the gifts of God's people.
Energize God's people to use their gifts for ministry.
Welcome the opportunity to walk the talk with our youth.

The submission deadline for the November 2017 Newsletter is

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23.